

As a matter of FACTS, the Economy Poverty Line is a FALSE POVERTY LINE; it does not allow a family enough money for health and decency; it does not allow enough money for a family to escape poverty.

A true poverty line must "draw the line" between those who have enough income for human health and decency, and those who do not:

poverty line		People NOT IN Poverty
		People IN Poverty

The Economy Poverty Line clearly fails to do this: While it is true that people below the Economy Poverty Line are in poverty, it is not true that people at or above the Economy Poverty Line have escaped poverty—are not in poverty.

PEOPLE WITH INCOMES AT THE ECONOMY POVERTY LINE AND MANY PEOPLE ABOVE THE ECONOMY POVERTY LINE ARE STILL IN POVERTY.

A MORE HONEST POVERTY LINE

The Federal government, in a way, admits that the Economy Poverty Line is not a good poverty line. For it has developed another line which it also calls a poverty line. They call it the LOW-INCOME POVERTY LINE.

It is shown on the graphs on the previous pages by the dotted line which is above the Economy Poverty Line.

The Low-Income Poverty Line comes much closer to showing how much income people really need to live at a minimum level of human health and decency. It is a much more honest poverty line.

It is based on the Agriculture Department's Low-Income Food Budget which allows about one-third more food and food money. In turn, the Low-Income Poverty Line allows about one-third more money for clothing, shelter, etc. than the Economy Poverty Line.

Many people still feel that the Low-Income Poverty Line is too little when compared with the high standards of living in the United States. But it is probably enough money for a family to live at a MINIMUM level of health and decency.

WHY TWO POVERTY LINES?

It is strange that the government has TWO poverty lines, when one of them is clearly not a good one. It is also strange that the inadequate one is called "Economy" while the more honest one is called "Low-Income"—terms which give unknowing people the FALSE idea that the "Economy" one is really enough, and that the "Low-Income" one allows "surplus".

Many feel that the Federal government's use of the Economy Poverty Line as its standard for "eliminating poverty" is false and misleading—and a public relations trick at the expense of poor people.

THE POVERTY LINE AND WELFARE RIGHTS

People who understand about poverty lines have a responsibility to tell other people—to tell them what they really mean, and what they do not mean.

When members of the National Welfare Rights Movement gathered in Washington in February, 1967 to draw up legislative proposals for the 90th Congress, they refuse to use the false Economy Poverty Line as their standard for adequate welfare grants. In their proposals they demanded that welfare grants be raised to the Low-Income Poverty Line.

It is an important difference.